



ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023-2024

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Community Safety Partnerships to complete an annual partnership plan. The legislation also places a joint responsibility upon specific agencies to work together to protect the local community from crime, and to help people feel safer.

The Safer Colchester Partnership consists of representatives from the following statutory authorities:

- Colchester City Council (CCC)
- Essex Police
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
- Essex County Council
- The Probation Service
- NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Safer Colchester Partnership also consists of non-statutory representatives from:

- Colchester Garrison
- University of Essex
- Community 360
- Colchester Borough Homes
- Crimestoppers
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Open Road
- Business Improvement District (BID)
- Next Chapter
- Beacon House
- Youth Enquiry Service (YES)
- Firstsite
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Eastlight Community Homes
- Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse in Essex (CARA)
- Phoenix Futures
- Victim Support
- Behaviour, Attendance and Inclusion Partnership (BAIP)

Key Priorities for 2023-2024

The Partnership identified five priorities for 2023/2024 following an assessment of crime and disorder, and consultation with various agencies.

Priority One: Safeguard adults and children at risk of violence and exploitation

Priority Two: Tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour

Priority Three: Support victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences and reduce violence against women and girls

Priority Four: Develop early intervention and prevention to tackle the drivers of crime and reduce reoffending

Priority Five: Work with communities to build resilience and promote safety

This document provides an overview of projects and initiatives that have contributed towards achieving the Annual Partnership Plan priorities and meeting the objectives of the Crime and Fire plan. Consideration also given to meeting the targets of the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy launched in November 2021 [Crime-Prevention-Strategy-2020-v17-1.pdf \(pfcc.police.uk\)](https://www.pfcc.police.uk/Assets/Document/Essex-Crime-Prevention-Strategy-2020-v17-1.pdf)

Police and Crime Plan Priorities 2021 – 2024

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the policing priorities and aims for keeping Essex safe. It brings together police, partners and the people of Essex to build safe and secure communities, thereby promoting public confidence in the police and ensuring that victims are satisfied with the service and support they receive. The commitments set out in the plan build on existing partnerships and seek to develop them in new and ambitious ways. These include greater collaboration between police and fire and closer working with local councils, community safety partnerships, and the voluntary, community and health sectors

The twelve plan priorities:

1. Further investment in crime prevention
2. Reducing drug driven violence
3. Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
4. Reducing violence against women and girls
5. Improving support for victims of crime
6. Protecting rural and isolated areas
7. Preventing dog theft
8. Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime
9. Improving safety on our roads
10. Encouraging volunteers and community support
11. Supporting our officers and staff
12. Increasing collaboration

Priority One - Safeguard adults and children at risk of violence and exploitation

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the Project / Initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
Increase knowledge and awareness among CYP of issues affecting their safety	Crucial Crew	Colchester Council to deliver an annual awareness/engagement event with Year 6 pupils, to improve their knowledge of personal safety, key community safety messages and potential exploitation.	1629 pupils from 40 primary schools participated - an increase of 50% compared to 2022, with a further 11 schools taking part. Planning underway for 2024 delivery.	1,2,3,4	Organised Crime / Complex Needs
	Operation Henderson	Continue initiative by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board, British Transport Police, Essex Police, other partners including local councils, to raise awareness of the vulnerability of young people to exploitation and abuse at stations and transport networks.	Dates held in Spring and Autumn 2023. Further dates planned for 2024.	1,2,3,4	Complex Needs / Organised Crime
	Op MakeSafe	Spot checks on hotels checking for signs of exploitation.	Several failures – education given. Further checks will follow.		
	Op Jupiter	Safeguarding for young people in conjunction with Colchester Institute. Educating on issues including knife crime and substance misuse.			
	Op Wolfskin	To tackle vulnerability in the North of Essex and involves a large number of children and young adults. This operation is focussed on disruption of this vulnerability and safeguarding those involved.	Partners engaged to support Police.		
	Test Purchasing Exercise	Using police cadets, checks made on businesses selling to underage young people – checks relating to alcohol, vapes, knives.	3 premises failed and were reported. Further test purchasing taking place in January 2024.		

	ECFRS Education Officers work with schools under the collaboration project between ECFRS and Essex Police	Education Officers deliver assemblies and lessons to schools, including Knife Crime Prevention and Gang Awareness.	Ongoing.	2,7,8,12	Organised Crime / Serious Violence
Progress initiatives to combat Violent Crime, County Lines and Knife Crime	Op Raptor	Op Raptor operations occur on a regular and ongoing basis.	Successes resulting in disruption of lines, individuals charged and remanded, seizure of phones, drugs and money.	1,2,4	Serious Violence
	Op Spade	Dog deployment operation in city centre, focusing on detection of knives and drugs. Additional engagement opportunity.			
	Knife Angel	Hosted 1 st -31 st October. Included opportunity to engage with visitors and raise awareness of knife/violent crime. Series of workshops for young people through schools/colleges. Linked into the VVU Knife Crime awareness campaign in October, and the play that was delivered to secondary schools.	90,000 visitors 6492 conversations with visitors 26 workshops for schools/colleges – 669 students attended. 3000 pupils watched bespoke play 343 attended Fire Education Team – Additional educational workshops 400 Attended United Against Knife Crime – educational workshops		
	Its About Your Son	Production funded by Violence and Vulnerability Unit and Colchester Council. The production toured Colchester secondary schools, to coincide with the			

		Knife Angel in Colchester. The drama was engaging and impactful and featured a cast of local performers. It centred around four characters coming to terms with the impact of a knife crime, for individuals, families, and communities.			
	Project Servator	Support Police operation to deter, detect and disrupt a range of criminal activity, including terrorism. Consider how partners, businesses and organisations can benefit and support this operation.	Servator week of Action October 2023. Numerous deployments and engagement in city Centre, with businesses, at railway station. Resulting proactive arrest and resolution conversations.	1,2,3,6	Vulnerabilities
Raise awareness of Modern Slavery and the support available	Anti-Slavery Partnership	Launch of the Anti-Slavery Partnership - to raise awareness and support vulnerable members of the community and progress any projects to identify and support victims of modern slavery. 'Colchester Against Modern Slavery' CAMS launched and Action Plan outlined.	Conference attended by over 45 delegates in April 2023. First partnership meeting held in June 2023. Task and Finish groups formed and met in August/September 2023 and ongoing. Steering Group formed to oversee Partnership. Forum working effectively.	3,5,8,10 12	Organised Crime
	Participate in campaigns to raise awareness of exploitation	Campaigns including Anti-Slavery Day	Awareness raising event and social media campaign 18/10/23.	3,5,10	Organised Crime

Raise awareness of PREVENT and how partners can support those at risk	Review the PREVENT Strategy and annual Action Plan	Through Community Safety Delivery Board (multi-agency forum) review the strategy and action plan and ensure activity is progressing and new interventions in place as required. Including promotion of Home Office PREVENT E-learning and ACT Early website	Strategy updated and available on website.	3,5,8,10	Vulnerabilities
Develop interventions to tackle and reduce Hate Crime	Continue delivery of Hate Crime Awareness and Ambassador workshops	Support Essex Police in the promotion of workshops to enable them to build on the 120 people trained as Hate Crime Ambassadors in Colchester.	Promotion of hate crime training to partners – August 2023. Sharing of Hate Crime Survey developed by Hate Crime Strategic Partnership.	3,4,5	Vulnerabilities
	Support Hate Crime Awareness Week	Promotion to partners and wider community. Support through social media channels. Ensure relevant websites are updated including Safer Colchester Partnership website, with information, guidance, training links and how to report Hate Crime. Police Week of Action in October.	Social media content prepared and shared.	3,4,5,10 12	Vulnerabilities
	Project Omnis	Continue promotion of the Omnis Project. A weekly hub at the Greenstead Community Centre aimed to reduce hate/mate crime, cuckooing and violent crime associated with county lines, and domestic abuse support. Project funded for a further 12 months.	Increased participation and successful case studies evidenced. Ongoing – Thursdays.	1,3,4,5,10,12	Vulnerabilities / Complex Needs

Priority Two - Tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the Project / Initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
Develop initiatives for vulnerable and young people to reduce ASB	Project Morpheus	Diversions work that encourages young people aged 10-18 years to engage and participate in activities such as Army days and paintballing to prevent young people going down the route of crime and ASB.	Ongoing- focus on initiatives already in place, including Box Smart, Premier league Kicks, the Rugby Club, and engagement with Garrison.	1,3,4,5,10,12	Vulnerabilities / Violent Crime
	Boxsmart 'On the Ropes'	Programme delivered in several locations across Colchester. Aimed at both secondary and tertiary young people via referral from YOS, YS, Turnaround (MOJ funded project) Childrens Social services teams and education. offer sports plus session which includes mentoring, topical discussions, guest speakers, sports and training and volunteering (youth sports mentors and leaders qualifications) opportunities extended Programme extended from 9 weeks to 24 weeks (2 x 12 week courses) to allow for sustained engagement and mentoring with young people who are vulnerable or at risk/already involved in ASB/offending behaviour.	The first of the 12-week courses completed – second part due to complete June 2024. 17 young people registered. All achieved significant positive change in behaviour. Other outcomes reported.		
	Girls with Goals – rebranded to Girls Inspired Project	3 programmes funded by Safer Streets. Engaging with both victims and perpetrators of crime. To divert away from criminal behaviour. Participated in activities including boxing, first aid and self defence. A further 6 courses are planned from January 2024 with weekly sessions, mentoring,	Over 32 girls participated and achieved range of certificates. Reports of increased school attendance,		

		training and qualification and volunteering opportunities.	improved attitude and behaviour.		
	Active Essex Foundation led After School Intervention	After school (secondary age intervention) at Urban Extreme, Changing Lives and Ninja Warrior. All are funded by AEF and others and offer sports sessions plus mentoring, topical discussions, guest speakers, sports and training opportunities.			
	Essex Youth Service detached youth work	Delivering detached youth work fortnightly in the Hythe area. 8-week trial of detached youth work in an area of Colchester identified by Colchester City Council and Essex Police – February 2024.			
	Dry Skate Project	New project started at Colchester Townhouse (Dry Skate Project – indoor skateboarding) for young people.			
Support activity to ensure the safety of those participating in the Night-time economy	Nights of Action	Bring together partners including Police, Environmental Health, Business Improvement District and Army to ensure businesses are adhering to legislation and any license restrictions. Equipment and materials purchased with Safer Streets funding including drugs wipes, urine testing kits and launch of Bleed Control kits, and resource costs to deploy police dogs.	Events held with evidence of education and enforcement.	1,2,3,4,8 11,12	Serious Violence
	Ask for Angela	Initiative to improve women's safety in NTE, in development by BID and supported by Essex Police and partners.	300 booklets distributed, over 80 staff trained. Further being developed for daytime hospitality.	3,4	Violent Crime / Complex Needs
	Safer Streets funded town centre projects	Vulnerability Training, Partnership Portal, NTE Audits, Best Bar None, SOS Bus projects underway, due for completion by September 2023.	Over 120 staff received vulnerability/CSE training. Best Bar None assessment		

			and Purple Flag achieved. Portal launched. SOS bus launch February 2024.		
Participate in partner activity, Essex Police Operations and local communities to tackle ASB	Op Luscombe	Continue this multi-agency approach to reduce homelessness and ASB linked to homelessness. Continue to provide a drop-in centre on a weekly basis for homeless community to access services and support.	Ongoing	2,3,5,12	Complex Needs
	Op Dial	Police and Council led patrols of hotspot areas including Greenstead and Colchester Leisure World. Commenced July 2023 and ongoing until April 2024. St Mary's added as additional hotspot area December 2023.	Ongoing monitoring of ASB data in line with patrols.		
	Op Grip	High visibility police patrols in hotspot areas.	Ongoing monitoring of ASB data and hotspot areas reviewed.		
	Op Bugg	High visibility patrols in the Dutch quarter and North Station area. This is to tackle drug supply and ASB associated with use of drugs.	Ongoing		
	Op Stronghold	Engagement and problem-solving focus for hotspots identified in the city centre. Multi-agency activity.	February 2024		
	Mobile CCTV cameras	CBH and CCC to continue to deploy mobile CCTV cameras to assist in identifying and tackling ASB in hotspot areas along with environmental ASB, fly tipping etc.	Impressive results from mobile deployment resulting in enforcement.	2,4,5,6	Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime
	Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)	Ongoing review of existing PSPO's and any updates needed.	City Centre PSPO consultation held in September –	2,9	Vulnerabilities

			resulting in renewal of PSPO.		
	Neighbourhood Watch	Increase membership and awareness of Neighbourhood Watch. Use a variety of communication methods to engage with the community to influence change in behaviours and deter opportunistic crime.	Increased membership encouraged through partnership working.		Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime
	ASB Toolkit	Document to help Councillors, public know when and how to report the different types of ASB.	Circulated to Councillors – November 23.		
	Transport Support Officers (TSO's)	Department of Transport funded project to tackle ASB on public transport. TSO's will patrol targeted transport links including Colchester rail routes, to deal with low level nuisance and disorder.	Launching January 2024.		

Priority Three: Support victims of

domestic abuse and sexual offences and reduce violence against women and girls

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the Project / Initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
Raise awareness of Domestic Abuse services and the support available	Promotion of Domestic Abuse awareness training	Promote to partners and the wider community, through relevant forums and distribution channels training by 'J9' and Alpha Vesta, and others as appropriate.		3,4,5	Complex Needs
	Participate in Domestic Abuse and Stalking Awareness campaigns	Link in with partners including Next Chapter, Essex Police and CARA to share information on social media. Support any local and national awareness campaigns including 16 Days of Action, Violence Against Women Day, National Stalking Awareness Week.		3,4,5	Complex Needs
	Continue to deliver the Together we Can Project	Delivered by Next Chapter and Open Road, this project supports 5 Local Authorities including Colchester. Support victims of domestic abuse through the Recovery Refuge, Community based support and Resettlement programme, specialist	Regular partnership updates/meetings to review outcomes. Excellent feedback	2,3,4,5	Complex Needs

		support for CYP affected by domestic abuse, and support from a Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioner. Extended until March 2024.	and positive outcomes achieved. Confirmation of further extension of programme for 2024-25.		
	Stronger Together Project	Funded by Safer Streets – project to cascade messaging to address VAWG. Methods include series of focus groups to young people and production to secondary schools, various activities to capture an adult audience. For completion by end of September 2023.	Production delivered to 6 secondary schools. Adult shows/forums held throughout September 2023. Further funding achieved through Safer Streets 5 to extend project.		
	ECFRS VAWG Firebreak	The course was developed in collaboration with ECC and the University of Essex. Focuses on behavioural and healthy relationships awareness that explores the consequences of low-level behaviours which may lead to violence, misogyny and harm towards women and girls.			
Support victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	Integrated Support Project	Project delivered by CARA to deliver a range of additional support services aimed at victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse who have a high level of immediate need and/or face multiple disadvantages, including due to mental ill-health.	Ongoing	3,4,5	Complex Needs
	CARA – Specialist Sexual Violence Counselling	Funded by ECC in addition to the services they provide. This project supports victims part of a DA relationship in refuge, dispersed accommodation, sanctuary scheme.	Ongoing – further funding achieved through SS5 for Mile End for 2024-25.		
	VAWG Safe Space pilot	Safe space launched at Sports Park, to encourage those experiencing sexual harassment, feelings of unease to speak with trained staff and receive signposting to appropriate support. Increase	Launch date 4 th December 2023. Ongoing monitoring		

		intelligence gathering to build picture of any individuals or areas causing concern.	of response and further comms.		
	Essex Police DAPS Team	Specialist officers conducting activity including supporting Afghan community, to address religious/cultural barriers to reporting domestic abuse and VAWG.		3,4,5	Complex Needs
	Safe and Well Visits	Safe and Well Visits conducted by ECFRS for victims of domestic abuse, victims of/people at risk of arson, and other vulnerable members of the community.		12, 3, 4, 5	Vulnerabilities
	Op Sandy	Police operation throughout the summer of 2023. Patrols by sexual violence trained officers in the NTE to support vulnerable people and get people home safely.	Engagement with SOS bus, transport hubs. Prevention of multiple disturbances Supported vulnerable females to get home safely Missing people found		
	Safe Space in NTE	Linked to Op Grip patrols. Offering safe space in NTE for vulnerable people in need. Deployments have continued in city centre over festive period and OP GRIP team have completed a night-time economy survey with the public.	Survey results to follow but highlight concerns around lighting, public transport and taxis.		
	Commonplace Tool	Tool developed to capture public perception of places they feel safe/unsafe and share their views on what could be put in place to improve these places. Commonplace perception tool	Tool shared with CSP partners. Consultation in progress until Spring 2024. Analysis will then commence.		
	DAHA Accreditation	Colchester Borough Homes applying for DAHA accreditation (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance). Establishes best practice when dealing with and supporting survivors of DA. It then implements this best practice across organisations to ensure every survivor gets the same level of support.	Application is process.		

Address perpetrator behaviour	Perpetrator Programme	Funded for 2 years to implement a Perpetrator Programme in Colchester.		1,2,3,4,5 8,10	Organised Crime / Complex Needs

Priority Four: Develop early intervention and prevention to tackle the drivers of crime and reduce reoffending

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the project / initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
Identify perpetrators and victims of crime	Essex Police Operations	Operations listed under each priority.			
	Op Gerberara	Home office funded project whereby police officers in plain clothes and uniform are being deployed to the city centre to identify possible vulnerabilities and act before they occur. Working with NTE venues and security to improve the safety within the NTE.			
Share intelligence/data to generate a consistent picture of criminal activity	MAC Panel	Working together through the Multi Agency Coordination Panel partners to target individual criminals and to disrupt the criminal in addition to the criminality.	Ongoing. Now incorporates ASB Panel.	1,2,6	Organised Crime
Early Engagement/ Interventions opportunities	Sporting Events with Essex Police	Essex Police run sporting activity to engage young people and divert away from crime. Positive role model and improve perception of policing. Ballin with a Bobby and events with Essex Rebels.	Various events through Spring/Summer		
	Partnership task and finish group	Task and Finish Group formed to look at early intervention activity that can be implemented to tackle youth offending/asb.	Formed February 2024.		Vulnerabilities
	TAFSO – Team Around the Family Support Officers	Funded by the VVU. ECC Children and Families - early help for families includes young people.	Promoted through the partnership.		

	Essex Youth Justice Service delivery	Turnaround project POWER project	Ongoing delivery		
Influence change in behaviour to reduce those becoming victims of crime	Neighbourhood Watch	Consider campaigns to reduce incidents of opportunistic crime and educate residents/visitors to Colchester on adopting safer behaviours to prevent/reduce these crime types. Working with Essex Police on a project supplying informative data to assist in identifying crime prevention strategies.	Sharing NHW benefits and useful website links via CSDB partners.		Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime

Priority Five: Work with communities to build resilience and promote safety

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the project / initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
Suicide Awareness and Prevention	Support promotional activity including local and national campaigns	Support World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 th September and Self Harm Awareness Day Reach Out for Mental Health – football event March 2024.	Light up Green – castle and Town Hall lit from 4-10 September	10,12	Complex Needs
	Suicide Prevention Operational Group	Forum for partners to meet as an operational group. To consider requests from participating organisations to all work together on suicide prevention for Colchester. Forum used to share messaging.	First meeting June 2023. Meet quarterly. New ECC suicide prevention role recruited – leading group for 2024.	10, 12	Complex Needs
Public Safety and Perception of Crime	Fear of Crime Survey	CCC to repeat the Fear of Crime survey across the city. Build on the data collated last year to identify trends and inform further action planning.	For 2023 this was replaced by an Essex-wide Community Safety Survey. Results of survey included in Strategic Assessment of Crime.	1-12	Serious Violence / Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime / Complex Needs
	Outreach Events	University of Essex events supported by partners including Police, Paramedics, BID and KAT	Positive feedback from students, numerous		

		Marketing, to share safety messaging. Events including Freshers Fayre.	students engaged and messaging shared.		
	Safe, Well and Secure	Events organised by ECFRS to deliver safety messages/advice to residents in target areas and ultimately reduce accidental dwelling fires and deliberate fires.	Ongoing by ECFRS – stats included in Strategic Assessment of Crime report.	1,6,9,12	Vulnerabilities
	Police Station Open Day	3 RD June 2023	Attended by just under 3000 people. Will be repeated next year.		
	Firestoppers	Firestoppers information line – to reduce/prevent deliberate fires FireStoppers Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (essex-fire.gov.uk)	Messaging shared through CSDB.		
	Stroll with a Patrol	Police initiative to engage the community and partners to understand community issues. Events held across all wards in Colchester.	42 events held between May and September 2023.		